

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218654

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 13790 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON
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QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13790

E. O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR,UR, FR, UN

SUBJ: SOVIET-FRENCH CONSULTATIONS AND SOVIET OFFICIAL ON
UNGA DISARMAMENT TOPICS

REF: (A) STATE 216409 (B) MSOCOW 13529

1. SUMMARY. ON AUG 31, FRENCH DESCRIBED RECENT BILATERAL
DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS ON MDW, WDC AND SPECIAL SESSION, WORLD
NUF AND ENMOD, AND SOVIET OFFICIAL GAVE US FURTHER DETAILS ON
STATUS OF NUF. SOVIETS ADDED KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT TO SOURCES
OF NUF AND PREDICTED DIFFICULTIES IN PRESENTING ENMOD DRAFT
TO UNGA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT QP MEETING AUG 31, FRENCH CHARGE HUSSON REPORTED THAT
DURING REGULAR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON UNGA TOPICS WHICH
TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK BETWEEN SOVIET MFA IO DIVISION DIRECTOR
ISRAELYAN AND QUAI UN DIRECTOR SAINT-LEGER, SOVIETS
HAD ASKED FOR FRENCH ON A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
(MDW) RESOLUTION, THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE
(WDC) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD).

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3. ON MDW, HUSSON REPORTED, FRENCH HAD POINTED OUT TO SOVIETS THEY WERE NOT PRESENT AT RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA, AND WOULD HAVE TO STUDY DEFINITION OF WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SOVIET INITIATIVE WHICH SOVIETS HAD PRESENTED THERE.

4. ON WDC (AND PROPOSED UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT), FRENCH HAD TOLD SOVIETS THEY DO NOT SEE ANY NEED FOR A SPECIAL SESSION. SOVIET RESPONSE WAS THAT THERE ARE INDEED PROBLEMS, THAT PROSPECTS ARE "NOT EASY", AND THAT MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED.

5. ON THE WORLD NUF TEXT, SOVIETS HAD REFERRED TO THE KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT AS A GOOD PRECEDENT. FRENCH HAD REPLIED THAT NON-USE OF FORCE IS MENTIONED IN MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS, AND THAT THE KELLOGG-BRIAND EXCHANGE IS NOT IMPRESSIVE, BUT THAT THEY ARE READY TO LISTEN TO SOVIET IDEAS.

6. ON ENMOD, THE SOVIETS HAD SAID THEY HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PRESENT AN AGREED DRAFT TREATY TO UNGA, BUT THAT DIFFICULTIES HAD ARISEN WHICH MIGHT PREVENT THIS. FRENCH HAD REPLIED THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE A FINAL TEXT IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, BUT WERE UNABLE TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS UNTIL THEY HAD SEEN ONE.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUG 31, IO DIVISION COUNSELOR, IGOR' PALENYKH SAID THAT NFUF MATTER WAS STILL UNDER STUDY IN MFA AND THAT "NO DECISIONS" HAD BEEN TAKEN ON WHAT TO DO WITH ISSUE IN UNGA. HE CITED, SOMEWHAT OBLIQUELY, BREZHNEV'S 25TH PARTY CONGRESS SPEECH AS THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT MFA EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE. WHILE PRAISING THE UN CHARTER AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT AS CLEAR STATEMENTS OF NUF PRINCIPLE, HE CONSIDERED THEM WEAK COMMITMENTS AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT NUF PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE "GIVEN THE FORCE OF LAW" WHICH COULD ONLY COME THROUGH A "TREATY". HE WAS SURE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN JUST ANOTHER UNGA RESOLUTION.

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8. COMMENT: CONVERSATIONS WITH TIMERBAYEV (REF B), ISRAELYAN AND PALENYKH SEEM TO POINT STRONGLY TO SOME KIND OF SOVIET INITIATIVE IN THIS UNGA ON NUF. HOWEVER, PALENYKH'S COMMENTS ABOUT LACK OF DECISION AND ISRAELYAN'S APPARENT FAILURE TO REQUEST FRENCH SUPPORT FOR A SPECIFIC SOVIET MOVE SUGGEST THAT SOVIET PLANS ARE NO MORE DECIDED NOW THAN WHEN TEMERBAYEV TALKED TO BRITS TWO WEEK AGO. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THEY ARE

DISCUSSING MATTER WITH WESTERN POWERS SHOWS THAT THEY
PROBABLY ARE DECIDED TO MAKE SOME MOVE, IF ONLY TO
KEEP BREZHNEV'S SPEECH FROM LOOKING LIKE EMPTY RHETORIC.
WITH RESPECT TO ISRAELYAN'S EXPECTATION OF ENMOD
PROBLEMS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO GET MORE SPECIFIC READING
AND DEGREE OF DIFFICULTIES SOVIET EXPECT.
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